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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Early, mail voting successful in first week



Early voting is set up at the Agawam Senior Center last week. Early voting goes through Friday, Oct. 30, then voters can go to their respective voting precincts on Tuesday, Nov. 3. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Early voting will end on Friday, Oct. 30, but after just one week, it has been a rousing success.

The Agawam Senior Center has been buzzing with activity since early voting started. With the ongoing pandemic and essentially all programming shut down at the center, it was the perfect location to hold early voting.

Voting has been held during regular business hours since Oct. 17, along with some special weekend hours, including Sundays.

In all there have been nearly 6,000 ballots cast already.

Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia reported Monday that between early voting and mail-in ballots, 5,917 have been received and counted toward Agawam's voting tally.

It represents a "turnout" of approximately 26 percent of the total

voting population in Agawam. Typical presidential elections can draw at least between 40 and 60 percent of the registered voters, but with early and mail-in voting, it is possible for the town to shatter that expectation, especially when in-person voting occurs on Nov. 3, and numbers from the second week of early voting are all considered.

Gioscia mailed out approximately 6,000 mail-in ballots for a variety

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State representative, senate seats on the line in Nov. 3 election

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – While most eyes in the country are on the very controversial 2020 presidential election between incumbent President Donald Trump and challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, there are also local elections being decided when voters are invited to the polls for a final time on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, will defend his seat against Democrat and Agawam School Committee member Kerri O'Connor.

Boldyga was elected in 2010 when he defeated now-Agawam City Council Rosemary Sandlin. Boldyga has overcome Democratic challengers in every election since becoming state representative, including twice defeating Samuel DiSanti and once de-

feating Sandlin.

Boldyga is a resident of Southwick and was formerly a police officer in Connecticut. He also served on the Southwick Select Board before being elected to the state legislature.

Boldyga is one of just a few Republicans in a Democratically-dominated state legislature.

Boldyga has touted having advocated for not raising taxes and work-

ELECTION | page 2

Falls sports continue



Josiah Bass-Collins dribbles up the field at Westfield High School during a recent game. More photos on page 8. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOTOS.COM

Only small increases in COVID cases locally

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – While cases are on the rise for coronavirus in Massachusetts and many other parts of the country, Agawam has not

quite felt the impact.

However, in the past two weeks, like many towns, Agawam has seen a slight uptick in cases and is in danger of seeing its COVID rate rise above eight cases

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REP. NICK BOLDYGA HAS A PROVEN TRACK RECORD
RE-ELECT NICK BOLDYGA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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BOLDYGA COMMITTEE

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Used toys needed for holiday exchange

AGAWAM — Agawam Zero Waste Club and the Agawam Rotary Club have partnered to collect toys for the 5th Annual Holiday Used Toy Exchange. This volunteer team has modified the annual event to comply with COVID-19 health guidelines.

Donors will send individual pictures of each of their gently used, clean, working toys by email to AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com from now until Sun., Nov. 1. Please include your name and telephone number on the e-mail. Toys will be collected by appointment only at the Agawam Public Library parking lot on Sat., Nov. 21 from 10-3. Donors will remain in their cars for this drive-thru event.

Gently used toys wanted include musical instruments, action figures, dolls, sports

equipment, books, bicycles, electronics, video games, DVDs, stuffed animals, model kits, art supplies, building toys, creative learning toys & structures, games, puzzles and baby toys. Donated toys must be clean, working and have all parts.

General public free shopping will be on-line from Wed., Nov. 4 through Tues., Nov. 10. Participants will be entered into a lottery after selecting their favorite toys virtually. The specific website and shopping format information will be made available at a future date. Toys will be distributed by appointment only on Sat., Dec. 5 from 10-2 in the Agawam Public Library parking lot. Participants will remain in their cars for this drive-thru event. Please submit questions to AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com

VOTE ■ from page 1

of reason, including typical absentee ballots, and mail-in for elderly, and those still worried about the possibility of contracting coronavirus by exposure to public places. Not all ballot mailed out have been turned in and voters are advised to mail ballots back as soon as possible. Ballots must be in the town's hands to be counted by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

While numerous television and published reports have recommended mail-in ballots be mailed out or dropped off as soon as possible, local mailing could take less time to process and reach town hall.

The Agawam Advertiser News reached out to the United States Postal Service to ask about mailing times, but did not receive a response as of press time.

A total of 752 new voters have registered since the May 19 special election for state senate. Gioscia reported there are 22,356 registered voters as of Monday, and the deadline to register to vote in the 2020 presidential election has passed.

COVID ■ from page 1

per 100,000 in the past 14 days. If that happens this Thursday, then Agawam would be labeled red, or a "high-risk" community.

There are 77 communities in Massachusetts in that category. The nearest to Agawam being East Longmeadow, Chicopee, and Holyoke. Agawam's latest data reported a rate of 6.5 cases.

For the entire pandemic, Agawam's website was reporting a total of 618 cases of COVID-19, which includes residents in the numerous nursing home and rehabilitation facilities in town.

According to Agawam's accounting of cases, there have been 81 total deaths in town, though 78 have occurred in nursing home cases. Nearly half of Agawam's total cases, 295, have been among the nursing home population.

When Massachusetts had reached its lowest part with a weekly positive test rate at about 0.5 percent, Agawam had no active cases with individuals either sick or in quarantine.

Flag placing in Indian Orchard**Staff report**

INDIAN ORCHARD — On Saturday, Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. until approximately 12 p.m., Indian Orchard American Legion Post #277 along with volunteers from the Sabis International Charter School's Student Life Organization and a group of volunteers recruited by former Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney will meet at Saint Aloysius Cemetery on Berkshire Avenue in Indian Orchard, in order to place flags on the graves of those departed veterans who are buried there.

For many years, the post has had the honor and privilege of serving departed comrades by meeting before Veteran's Day and Memorial Day to flag the graves. As American Legion members are advancing in age, the group is pleased to have the assistance of the Sabis Group and Delaney's associates.

This will be a "rain or shine" activity.

COVID ■ from page 1

But currently, Agawam has 14 residents that are either isolating or are in quarantine.

In the general community, town officials report there are 323 cases with just three deaths. Of the known cases, 306 people have already recovered.

Agawam's website updates case numbers weekly.

The Town has been a hub for coronavirus testing as Agawam's Junior High School was a drive-up testing site for several weeks before school resumed.

Agawam's schools have also been talking about phased resumption of full-time in-person classes at the Agawam schools.

However, with an overall uptick in classes, it remains to be seen if Agawam will have to consider its plans.

Agawam has also been able to participate in high school sports for the entire Fall 1 season. Officials are hoping the school will be able to complete its season in soccer, field hockey, cross country, golf, and girls volleyball.

Virtual symphony pass available through library

AGAWAM — The Pioneer Valley Symphony is preparing for their upcoming 82nd season and for now they will be completely virtual...and free of charge. In the past, the Agawam Library has received passes valid for 2 adult and 2 children, however this year we have been provided with the code LIBRARY-COMP82, which will allow free access to any PVS "Presents" or "Discovery Series" online event.

The code may be redeemed by visiting the website www.pvsoc.org, going to the TICKETS page and then entering the code at checkout. This will make the total value due \$0, and a confirmation email will be received with the access link to the event.

The PVS operates almost entirely due to the generosity of the community. Donations to support their education program, youth programming or subscription concert series may be made via their website, or by check mailed to PVS, 91 Main St. Greenfield, MA 01301.

ELECTION ■ from page 1

ing for families to be able to afford to live in the district. He is endorsed by the Massachusetts Republican Committee.

O'Connor is challenging for state representative for the first time. She is a two-term school committee member and a veteran of the U.S. Navy who served in the Persian Gulf War. She is a 1995 graduate of Agawam High School and has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters in Psychology. She serves as an auxiliary member of the Veterans Council, and advocates for special education, mental health, substance abuse, housing needs, and family support during her career.

The two are going for the seat representing the Third Hampden District. Towns in the district include Agawam, Southwick, Granville, and Russell.

State Sen. John Velis was elected during a special election in May. He took the state senate seat in the Second Hampden and Hampshire District previously occupied by longtime politician Donald Humason, who is now mayor of Westfield.

Velis, a Democrat, defeated John Cain, of Southwick in that special election. Cain, a Republican, is now challenging Velis for the full two-year term on the state senate.

The district represents 11 cities and towns, including Holyoke, Westfield, Easthampton, and small part of Chicopee.

A U.S. Senate seat is on the line with U.S. Ed Markey putting his seat up against Republican Kevin O'Connor. The seat is for a six-year term.

U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Massachusetts, ran and successfully defeated Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse in the primary election in September. Neal is unopposed for another term in the general election.

Finally, there will be two ballot questions. The first will seek to expand the 2013 "Right-to-repair" law where a yes vote will expand access to car data for independent mechanics while a no vote will make no changes to the current laws.

The second question will ask if voters in Massachusetts would like to see "ranked-choice" voting.

Sample ballots can be found on local websites or by contacting your Town Clerk. Precinct locations are published in the Agawam Advertiser News and will be open on Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is not known how long it will take for local results to be known with the expansion of mail-in voting.

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★ JOHN ★ VELIS FOR STATE SENATE



Re-Elect State Senator John Velis SECOND HAMPDEN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT



“Over the past 5 months, I have had the honor of serving as State Senator for the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District. As an attorney, 2-time Veteran of the War in Afghanistan, major in the U.S. Army Reserves, and an experienced lawmaker, I have a wide variety of experiences that provides a unique and powerful voice on Beacon Hill. I have proven myself to be a public servant, not a party servant by carrying my bipartisan voting record from the House to the Senate. I have brought back resources for the district through the relationships I’ve built with lawmakers and other leaders on both sides of the aisle. I hope to continue to deliver for the people of this district, which is why I’m humbly asking for your vote for re-election on Tuesday, November 3rd.” – **John Velis**



“As Mayor of Agawam, I have had several opportunities to work with Senator John Velis on behalf of Western Massachusetts’ interests in Boston. I have always found him to be enthusiastic, attentive, and fully aware of his obligations to the voters. I can think of no one else I would rather work with and I urge everyone to vote for John Velis on November 3”

– *Agawam Mayor Bill Sapelli*



“I’m backing Sen. Velis because he focuses on getting things done, not party politics. It’s a very unique approach that we don’t see enough of these days, especially in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. One of the main reasons I’m backing Sen. Velis is because of his commitment to public service. His service as a Senator and to our country is something that I admire tremendously and respect. That experience and belief in our country comes back with him and is certainly a part of his service today.”

– *Hampden County DA Anthony Gulluni*



✓ VOTE VELIS

IN THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3

POLLS OPEN: 7AM-8PM • FOR A RIDE TO THE POLLS: (413) 314-3269

Military Disclaimer: John Velis is a member of the U.S. Army Reserves. Use of his rank, job title, or photos in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Army or DOD.

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JOHN VELIS

Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Guidance needed on Social Security and Medicare

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I am turning 67 in October and as of today, I am still employed full time. I really do not plan on retiring unless I am forced to. But how do I arrange my Social Security and Medical care stuff. It seems this subject is like a color, and everyone has a different color they like. Is there any way for me to figure this out with help or on my own? I could really use some guidance. Signed: Perplexed

Dear Perplexed: Okay, let's look at your Social Security and your Medicare separately, because they're two totally independent programs.

You do not need to do anything about Social Security until you are ready to start collecting your benefits. Since you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66, you are now earning Delayed Retirement Credits at the rate of .667% per month. That means that your benefit in October, if you were to claim it then, would be 8% more than it would have been at age 66. If you continue to delay applying for Social Security benefits, you will continue to earn those DRCs up to age 70, when your benefit amount would be 32% more than it would have been at your FRA. The choice of when to claim your Social Security is yours to make, considering your need for the money, your health and your expected longevity. The longer you wait (up to 70), the more your benefit will be, and if you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age) then you'll get both a higher benefit amount and more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting to claim your Social Security.

As for Medicare, if you are now covered by your employer's "creditable" healthcare plan, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your current employer coverage ends (when you stop working). "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants. If you now have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage (including drug coverage) you won't be liable for a Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare (or a drug plan) later. If you are still working and know your creditable employer coverage will end soon, you can enroll for Medicare benefits to start coincident with the end of your employer coverage. Or, after you stop working, you can enroll in Medicare during a "Special Enrollment Period" (or "SEP" for those transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare coverage). Your SEP for Medicare will last for eight months after you stop working, but you only have 63 days after the end of your employer drug coverage to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan.

The bottom line is this – you don't need to enroll in Medicare until your creditable employer healthcare coverage ends. And you don't need to apply for Social Security until you wish to start receiving benefits (just don't wait beyond 70).

One final point because you were born in 1953: if you are now married and your wife is already collecting her Social Security, you can file a "restricted application for spouse benefits only" and collect only a spouse benefit from your wife, while still allowing your own benefit to continue to grow until you are 70. But this option is only available to you because you were born before Jan. 2, 1954.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Letter to the Editor

Thank you for shredding event

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank the Town of Agawam and Valley Green for providing the shredding event on Saturday. In addition, a special thanks is due to

the DPW workers and employees of the shredding company for their hard work. I would like to add as a reminder to all who availed themselves of this service: When an event is free

there's bound to be long lines so be prepared to wait and be patient. Thanks again to all who made this event happen.

Richard Michnovetz

Crocus: a great spring pick me up

When I was a kid we had crocus growing in a rock garden behind our house. They bloomed religiously, year after year, with little effort on our part. As a young adult working at Old Sturbridge Village, I saw a lot of crocus there, too. I loved to look for the bright yellows and purples in the Towne and Fitch gardens, and even inside the homes when they were forced into bloom in really neat porcelain hedgehogs, modeled after period forcing pots! Hedgehogs aside, I haven't had the same luck growing crocus in my own garden. Let's take a crash course on crocus culture so that this harbinger of spring will be happy enough to stick around in my landscape and yours.

Crocuses are hardy throughout most of the continental United States, zones 3-8. Northern gardeners love that they tolerate frost so well, and given the right circumstances will actually do better here than if planted in warmer climates. In fact, those who garden in the South often enjoy crocus for only a single season, making them more of an annual instead of the perennial we are accustomed to.

Most crocus species prefer a location that mimics their native habitat: one in which winters are moist and summers are dry. This is because they, and others that fall under the category of "spring flowering bulbs," go through a period of dormancy during the summer months. Since they are resting and not actively growing, they need to be kept dry; excess moisture will cause them to rot.

A full sun to partial shade situation is best for crocus and will encourage them to produce prolific, strong blossoms. Remember just how early in the season they bloom; many locations that wouldn't work in summer are just fine in March, under deciduous trees, for example, since they have yet to produce their leaves.

Plant crocus corms in the autumn, at least 4 to 6 weeks before the ground freezes solid. These

"modified stems" should be sunk twice as deep as they are thick, usually about four inches underground. Keep them that same distance apart from one another. Sometimes it is difficult to tell which end is "up." Examine the corm carefully and you will likely notice the start of a shoot or two poking through a fibrous, papery covering on one side and a base plate with the remnants of the previous year's roots on the other. Now that you know what to look for, planting them correctly is easy.

New crocus corms form above old corms each year. Keep a bed of crocus thriving by digging them up during dormancy and replanting them at the proper depth every third or fourth year. Tiny "cormlets" can be divided from the mother plant during this time as well. Usually they will take four or more years to produce blossoms.

Crocus corms are especially tasty to rodents. There are all kinds of tactics one can use to try and keep the buggers from eating them. Some gardeners go through the trouble of making little cages out of chicken wire and planting the corms inside. Others surround the corms with sharp gravel to discourage the animal from digging them up. There are also a number of deterrents, natural and otherwise, on the market that may be worth a try if you have a severe enough problem.

Now that I've had a refresher course on the basic requirements for crocus growing, I'll likely try again. Hopefully you will too!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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Kerri O'Connor

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Kerri will be visible and present in Agawam, Southwick, and Granville to communicate with our local government to ensure our needs are being addressed.

Credentials/Work Experience

- US Navy Gulf War Veteran
 - National Defense Medal
 - Sea Service Deployment Medal
 - Battle E Medal
 - Armed Forces Service Medal
 - Agawam Auxiliary Veterans Council Member
 - American Legion Post 185 Member
- Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice - Master's in Psychology
- 2 term Elected Agawam School Committee Member
- Certified Educational Advocate for Children with Special Needs
- Project Coordinator/Case Manager for Access to Behavioral Health Needs
- Coalition Member for the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth and Substance Abuse Prevention
- Intensive Care Coordinator for Children and Families in need of mental health, substance abuse, and emergency resources.



Above Kerri with Family members and Veterans she's helped at the Veteran's Green in Agawam in front of the WWII Memorial Wall where Kerri's Grandfather, Domenic DiDonato is remembered.

Endorsed by:



I will FIGHT to bring back resources to our community for these priorities:

- Covid Relief funding for our schools, small businesses and those in need
- Working people and their families
- Our Senior Citizens
- Veterans support
- Infrastructure needs
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Public Safety
- Equality for all
- Housing
- Community Wi-Fi
- Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

Meanwhile my opponent voted against needed resources for our communities...

Voted AGAINST COVID Relief Funding (House 4708)

Needed funding for our local police & fire departments and other emergency responders, food pantries and even our children's schools to support remote learning.

Voted AGAINST funding for our public safety Heroes including our Police, Fire, Sheriff & Courthouses (House 4932)

This included \$175,000 for Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi's Department, \$1.5 million dollars for the Hampden County justice system and \$325,000 to ensure safety at the Roderick Ireland Courthouse and the Hampden County juvenile court.

Why would he do that?

Vote Tuesday, November 3rd! www.oconnorforrep.us

Schools

Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Visiting College Representatives: If you are interested in meeting with College or University Representatives that will be conducting virtual visits at our school, you must sign up in Naviance at least one day in advance. Google Meet or Zoom links will be provided when you sign up.

October 29:

7:30 AM	Assumption College
8:25 AM	Emmanuel College
9:20 AM	Springfield Technical Community College
10:10 AM	Asnuntuck Community College
12:20 PM	Muhlenburg College

October 30:

7:30 AM	Rhode Island College
8:25 AM	Florida Institute of Technology
9:20 AM	Rutgers University
10:10 AM	Russell Sage College
12:20 PM	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
1:05 PM	College of Mount Saint Vincent

Reminders:

Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the Post-Secondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges. https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Virtual College Fairs are coming soon! The last fair will be held on November 8 (2 - 10 PM). On each fair date, more than 600 colleges and universities will offer Zoom sessions and meetings. Students everywhere can log in, drop in, and ask questions. Please register at virtualcollegefairs.org/events

The New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) registration page for the Virtual Fall College Fairs is now open. Partnering with GoToCollegeFairs, NEACAC is excited about this opportunity for students to explore virtual "booths", chat with admission representatives, watch presentations, and much more. More than 250 institutions will be exhibiting at the College Fairs. The dates and times are Thursday, October, 29 from 6-8 PM, and Sunday, November 13 from 1-3 PM. Registration is required, but is free! Register now at neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual and follow the steps to gain access to the fairs.

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus vis-

its may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

Need to learn about financial aid? The trusted experts at MEFA (Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority) are hosting FREE college financing webinars four times per week beginning Monday, Sept 28th through Thurs, Nov 5th. Webinars will be held every Monday through Thursday, with daytime and evening hours, and presented by industry experts, both from within MEFA and from colleges and organizations across Massachusetts. Register for a webinar at mefa.org/events.

Scholarship Information:

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

Each year, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation awards 150 college scholarships worth \$20,000 to high school students across the United States through the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Students need a 3.0 GPA to fill out an online application that requires no essays, no recommendations, and no transcripts by October 31, 2020 at 5 PM EST. More details are available at cokeurl.com/Scholarships

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC):

This scholarship program offers students the opportunity to earn their degree and receive valuable leadership and management skills while enjoying the benefits of an exciting career. Several requirements exist. The deadline for submitting an application is December 31, 2020. Please visit public.navy.mil for details.

The 2020 Profile in Courage Essay will be offering a first place prize of \$10,000, a second place prize of \$3,000, and \$1,000 for five finalists. The maximum word count is 1,000 with a minimum of 700, not including citations and bibliographies. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2021. More information is available at jfklibrary.org/essaycontest

Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2021 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available at Tenaska.com/scholarship-form, are due no later than February 12, 2021.

The American College Foundation (ACF) is offering a Visionary Scholarship, with multiple winners selected to each receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The application process is quick and easy and financial need is not considered. All may apply. The application is available at AmericanCollegeFoundation.org and the deadline is May 1, 2021.

The creators of the "Student Award Search Aid" website are offering the B. Davis Scholarship for 2021. Please visit studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm to read about the program and to apply for the scholarship. The amount of the award is \$1,000 and the deadline is May 24, 2021.

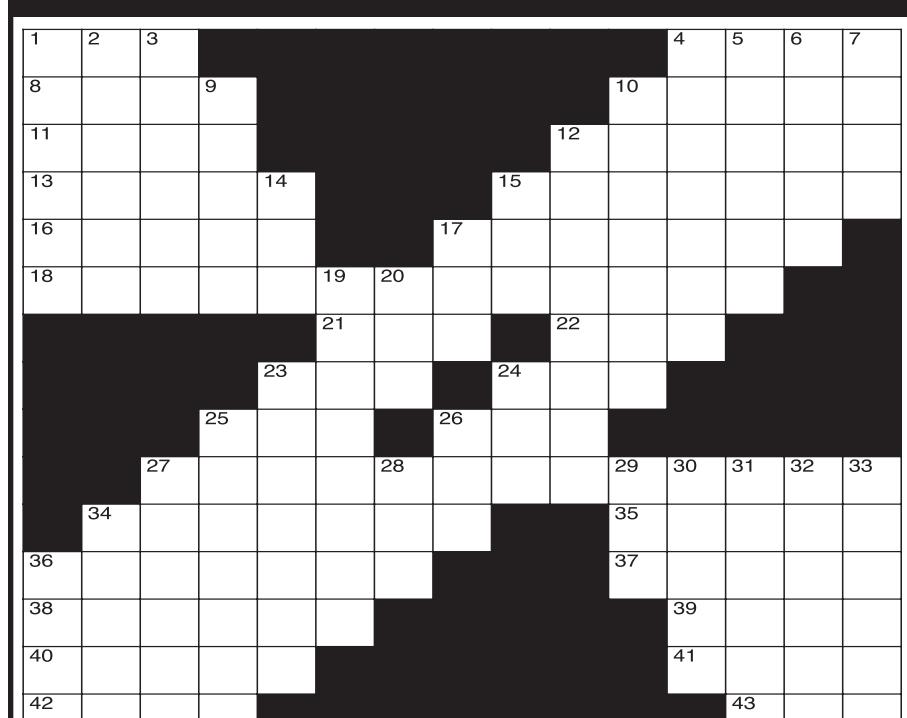
Juried photography show announced

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library are very excited to announce their First Open Juried Virtual Photography Show. We are not able to have our annual show at the library, but we want to continue to share the outstanding work of area photographers. The show benefits the Agawam Public Library and provides a platform to recognize and encourage these photographers. Awards totaling \$1340 will be determined by judging done on January 13. Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both well recognized photographers, will be the judges.

The show is divided into four categories

of photography: creative, nature, photo-journalism and pictorial. The entry fee is \$25 per entry up to and including November 30, 2020. Starting December 1, the fee will be \$30. If we have not received sufficient entries by January 1, 2021, the show will be cancelled and all fees returned.

All images must be original, made by the photographer, captured by film or digitally, and cannot be previous entries in our show. For the show's Prospectus and Entry Form, please visit www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.



CLUES ACROSS (abbr.)

1. Engine additive
4. Undemanding
8. __ your enthusiasm
10. Well-known island
11. Not saintly
12. Habitual
13. Central parts of church buildings
15. Trust
16. Intestinal
17. Deep-bodied fish
18. Live up to expectations
21. Snag
22. Partner to haw
23. General's assistant

CLUES DOWN

24. Sheep disease
25. Male term of endearment
26. United
27. Popular TV host
34. Overnighters
35. Beloved British princess
36. Obtains from
37. Third Mughal Emperor
38. Shares the opinion of
39. Central European river
40. Feudal estates
41. KU hoops coach Bill
42. Spreads out for drying
43. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
44. Type of lettuce
45. Place to call a pint
46. Backs
47. Partner to cheese
48. Makes it there
49. Shrubs of the olive family
50. Establish the truth of
51. Unfettered
52. Originations
53. Famed English park
54. Sheep's cry
55. Danced
56. More upstanding
57. Upstate NY airport (abbr.)
58. Healthy food
59. Silly

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59. Silly

Drive Thru Trick or Treating
Saturday, October 31, 11am-1pm

St. David's Church
699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills
(next Door to the Police Station)



Parents are welcome to drive their children, dressed in costume. All drivers must wear a mask. After parading around our back parking lot in your car all kids will receive a bag of goodies to enjoy. Hope to see you there!



Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni speaks at a Narcan event last week. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Hampden County Municipal Narcan initiative surpasses 1,000 Doses

SPRINGFIELD – In October of 2018 Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni along with Baystate Health, Trinity Health of New England, and The Center for Human Development announced a \$70,000 commitment to provide Naloxone, also known as Narcan, to participating municipal police and fire departments across Hampden County.

Since that announcement the commitment has grown to over \$125,000 with two additional rounds of funding by the Hampden District Attorney's Office totaling \$55,000.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni stated, "All indications are the opioid crisis has worsened during the Covid-19 pandemic. Ensuring local first responders have the necessary life-saving medication to assist those suffering from addiction is crucial in our life-saving efforts. The partnership between law enforcement and healthcare organizations to expand the availability of this life-saving drug is crucial in helping those suffering get the treatment they need."

To date, 1,120 doses of Naloxone have been distributed to local police and fire departments in effort to combat opioid overdoses here in Hampden County.

"Each of the over 1,000 doses of Narcan distributed as part of this special initiative to first responders represents a life saved. The opioid crisis has not gone away during the coronavirus pandemic, if anything, social isolation has made it worse. Any opportunity for people to seek treatment and enter recovery is a second chance at life," said Dr. Peter Friedmann, Chief Research Officer at Baystate Health



Narcan is a life-saving drug used by police departments to revive overdose victims.

In addition to help funding the initiative, Baystate Health administers the program and maintains a sufficient supply of Naloxone at its pharmacy. When the medication is in short supply, any participating agency can go directly to Baystate and pick up the desired doses.

The following departments participate in the program: Springfield Police and Fire Departments, Westfield Fire Department, Chicopee Police and Fire Departments, Holyoke Police and Fire Department, Longmeadow Police and Fire Department, Agawam Police Department, Wilbraham Police Department, West Springfield Police Department, and Ludlow Police Department.

Agawam Library offers Boston Children's Museum weekend passes

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library announces the immediate availability of Boston Children's Museum weekend passes, graciously provided by the Friends of the Agawam Library. These are available to reserve by Agawam and Feeding Hills residents 18 and older, with a CW/MARS library card in good standing. Each pass is valid only for the date listed and admits 4 people free of charge.

After receiving a library discount coupon from the library, patrons must then reserve their visit online with Boston Children's Museum.

New Instructions for Patrons:

Visit <https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/ticketing>

Review the directions for timed tickets

Click on the "Discount Programs" & drop down arrow

Click on "Half Price Library Timed Ticket" to book

The date on the Library Discount Coupon must match the date of the patron's visit.

Once arriving at the Museum, visitors will proceed to the Admissions Scanning Station with their online reservation and the date specific Library Discount Coupon received from the library. Patron can present these digitally on a hand held device or as a paper print out.

Patrons with questions about the online ordering system should contact Orders@BostonChildrensMuseum.org

As venues reopen to the public, it is important to contact the zoo or museum you wish to visit, as each one has a different process for securing a time slot. Please visit the library's website at www.agawamlibrary.org for availability.

Cultural Council announces writing competition

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a writing competition for all Agawam Public School students. The topic is "Facing the Challenges of the Coronavirus - How did you do it?" Entries will be accepted from Oct. 15 through Nov. 30, and the winners will be chosen by members of the Agawam Cultural Council. Monetary prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winning entries. The requirements for entry into this competition can be found on the ACC website and by contacting the librarians for each of the schools in Agawam. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Augusti at (413) 241-7196 or by email to: maryjane.augusti@gmail.com.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the current pandemic stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, at: www.agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



Deadline set for connection installation

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam's Department of Public Works has announced that Friday, Nov. 6 will be the last day to apply for road opening permits for the installation of water, sewer, or drain connections that have to be installed by the Town.

All connections applied for after the deadline will be installed in the spring of 2021.

This notice does not apply to connection which have been previously installed to the property line of an existing property.

ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 482 calls for service from Oct. 19 to Oct. 25 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Victor Charles Linderme, 35, of 415 Springfield Apt., Chicopee, was arrested at 4:50 p.m. on default warrants for failure to appear, and possession of a Class A substance.

Maurice Baker, 33, of 72 Melrose St., Springfield, was arrested at 11:25 p.m. for failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, speeding, and possession of a Class B drug.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P1029GD

In the matter of:
Nilvia Suarez
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED PERSON
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Agawam Healthcare of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Nilvia Suarez is in need of a Guardian and requesting that J. Jeffrey Yelle, Esq. of West Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/04/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appear-

ance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 20, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
10/29/2020

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).

Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands.

Thank you.

Legals notices continued on page 11

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

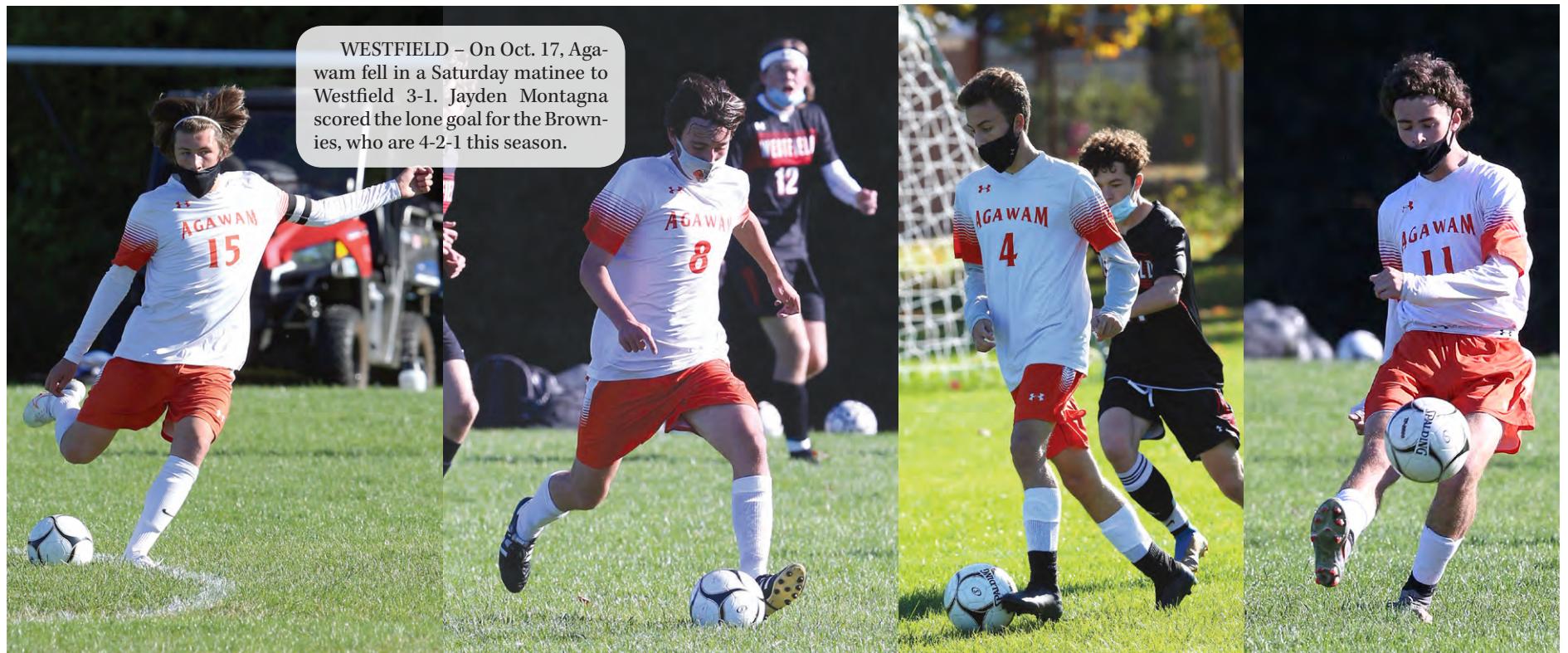
Let them know you saw their ad in the

Agawam Advertiser

SPORTS

SOCCER

Agawam boys soccer falls to Westfield High



Josh Bouchard sends a free kick away. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOTOS.COM

Jayden Montagna makes his way up the field.

Justin Davis dribbles with pressure behind him.

Connor Twohig sends a thru-ball up the right side.

FIELD HOCKEY



HOLYOKE – Last Monday afternoon, Agawam cruised to a 3-0 win over host Holyoke. Mia Wood scored twice for the Brownies and Emily Czupra scored the third goal in the shutout. Agawam is 3-0 this season.

Emmerson White tries to clear the ball out of Agawam's end. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Margaret Johnson chases down the ball for the Brownies.

Elizabeth Santore attempts to keep the ball under pressure.

McKenzie Roy tries to control the ball right between her feet.

FALL SPORTS

School shuts down sports, others join high-risk status

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – After three weeks of being named “high-risk” communities for COVID-19, Holyoke High School became the first school outside of Springfield’s schools to shut high school sports down.

Not only has Holyoke High School shut down their sports, the remainder of the fall season has been officially cancelled according to a letter from Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos.

“The health and safety of our community must remain the top priority,” stated Matos in a letter to the school community. “And any future plans for athletics must continue to adapt to evolving public health metrics. We are writing to inform you that in consultation with the local Board of Health, and in alignment with City, State, and MIAA guidelines, the remainder of Holyoke High School’s fall sports season is canceled. This is unfortunate and extremely disappointing, especially for our student-athletes, coaches, and fans who were looking forward to a complete fall season. This move is necessary out of an abundance of caution. While difficult for all involved, our responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe.”

The City of Holyoke has been in the red category for three weeks, which represents four weeks of higher rates of spread of the coronavirus, largely due to small group gatherings where people are not following health

FALL SPORTS | page 9

Sports

Dowling nets \$10K prize in modified race

STAFFORD, Conn. — Chase Dowling took the home-track advantage to Victory Lane in the Call Before You Dig (CBYD) Modified Classic 81 at Stafford Motor Speedway on Saturday night.

Dowling, the driver of the No. S&S Asphalt Paving machine owned by Ben Dodge, rolled to a dominant win in the inaugural Tri Track Open Modified Series race at the Connecticut half-mile. The race win came with a smooth \$10,000 check courtesy of CBYD and Tri Track — just a small portion of a purse that was over \$58,000. Thirty-two cars started the race, while 51 Modifieds showed up in the pit area to attempt to qualify. It was the largest, and most talented, Modified field seen in a race in multiple decades of racing.

Dowling took the lead on lap 12, led through lap 30 when he pitted during a controlled caution, then blasted back to the front to take the top spot for the final time on lap 39. He would hold off Matt Hirschman on multiple restarts in the second half of the race to win.

While Dowling celebrated the victory, Hirschman clinched his fifth career Tri Track title driving the No. 60 Modified. Ronnie Williams made a late charge to finish second, followed by Hirschman, NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, who made his 2020 Tri Track debut, and Matt Swanson.

The major wreck of the race happened off turn two on lap 30, just after the cycle of controlled caution pit stops. After Doug Coby had a mechanical failure at the green flag and stacked up the outside lane, multiple cars wrecked, drawing a caution in turn one. It was in turn two where most of the carnage happened — with Woody Pitkat ending up halfway up the wall on his side. Pitkat, Jon McKenna, Dave Sapienza and others escaped without injury, but were sidelined for the rest of the race.

Hall of Fame Women's Challenge to be held in "Bubbleville" at Mohegan Sun

UNCASVILLE — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today announced the Hall of Fame Women's Challenge scheduled for Saturday, November 28 and Sunday, November 29 at Mohegan Sun Arena will now be a part of "Bubbleville," a large scale effort to house several events relocated and reimaged due to COVID-19.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Gazelle Group are collaborating to produce multiple college basketball games at Mohegan Sun from November 25 through December 4, 2020, while providing a controlled environment with teams and event staff adhering to tribal, government, and NCAA health and safety protocols and testing requirements.

"The Hall of Fame Women's Challenge has been held at Mohegan Sun Arena for many years in front of the tremendous UCo-

After staying out early, NASCAR Cup Series star Ryan Preece elected to pit during a lap 39 caution, but was collected in a multiple-car wreck in turn three, ending his chances. The race came down to Dowling charging through and pulling away, while Williams, Hirschman and others tried to chase him down. Richard Savary finished sixth, followed by Les Hinckley, Todd Owen, Ron Silk and Burt Myers, who started from the pole.

Outside of the winning purse, and the 32-car starting field worth of prizes, which included \$1,000 just to take the green flag, multiple drivers also increased their payday by winning contingency awards. One of the highlights was Owen, picking up the \$1,000 Green Construction Hard Charger award after having to take a promoter's option into the race and start last. A full list of contingency winners is below.

Noah Korner was victorious in the 25-lap B-Main, advancing to the race along with Dylan Izzo, who finished second. Of the cars that went home, Blake Barney, who finished third in the B-Main, collected \$1,050 even though he didn't qualify. All cars in attendance at Stafford were provided at least \$300 in awards for attempting to qualify.

Tri Track Contingency Awards, Stafford, October 24:

Green Construction Hard Charger (\$1,000): Todd Owen

Stone's Performance & Parts Fastest Lap Award (\$300): Chase Dowling

Pepsi Challenge Heat Winners (\$300 each): Chase Dowling, Ryan Preece, Keith Rocco, Burt Myers, Ronnie Williams

Pepsi Challenge Consi Winners (\$300 each): Eric Goodale, Marcello Rufano

TFR Hard Luck Award (\$500 Gift Certificate to TFR): Woody Pitkat (Car Owner: Stan Mertz)

T-Birds make donation to Rays of Hope

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Thunderbirds president Nathan Costa presented a check of \$15,000 to the Baystate Health Foundation for the Rays of Hope from proceeds raised by the sale of specialty pink jerseys worn at the 2020 Pink in the Rink Night last March this afternoon on the steps of city hall.

Each year since their inception, the Thunderbirds have held a Pink in the Rink Night to benefit the Rays of Hope, complete with participation by breast cancer survivors, pink ice, and pink specialty jerseys. The event has sold out each of the past four seasons, and has become a signature event in the area to raise awareness during the Spring months. This past season's event took place on Saturday, March 7, and was again sold-out with a capacity crowd of 6,793.

"We at the Thunderbirds have been a dedicated supporter of the Baystate Health Foundation and the Rays of Hope from inception, and it's with great admiration for the fight against breast cancer that we are able to make yet another significant contribution to the cause in what has been a very difficult year," said president Nathan Costa. "Kathy, Michelle and the entire Baystate team have become like family to us, and we look forward to continuing this special partnership for years to come."

The Thunderbirds Foundation has contributed over \$80,000 to the Baystate Health Foundation and the Rays of Hope through the proceeds of specialty jersey auctions from the annual Pink in the Rink Night.

"Baystate Health Foundation and Rays of Hope are so proud of our partnership with the Springfield Thunderbirds. Pink in the Rink was one of the last times we had the ability to be all together this year and

the memory of that evening is heartwarming. A huge thank you to the Thunderbirds organization, Thunderbirds Fans and our Pink Rays of Hope Army for your support that makes this generous donation possible. HOPE will never be cancelled. We look forward to our 27th Rays of Hope Walk and Run Toward the Cure in our new virtual model this Sunday."

The check presentation occurred in association with the City of Springfield's Pink and Denim Day. Each year, the Mayor's office collects donations for the Rays of Hope, culminating in a day near the end of October where city employees can wear pink and denim to raise support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"We all have family and friends who have battled this challenge. My administration is proud to stand with those affected and Baystate Medical Center in continuing to raise funds to cure and beat this medical challenge. This year is extra special and I wish to congratulate our very own Al Rodriguez and his lovely wife Jackie for being named Baystate Health's Rays of Hope chairs for 2020/2021. Such a wonderful and beautiful family who continues to show tremendous support not only to Jackie but to other breast cancer survivors too. Al, Jackie, and family good health and continued success," Mayor Sarno said.

Thought it may look a little different than in past years, the Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer will continue in a hybrid model for 2020. Supporters are encouraged to walk or run anywhere, any time, during the month of the October, ending with a Parade of Hope on Sunday, Oct. 25 for all registered participants. For more information visit <http://bayhf.convio.net/>.

Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is underway and Turley Publications has been back out covering the action for the first two weeks.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely

want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

Find us online: www.sports.turley.com

FALL SPORTS ■ from page 8

and safety guidelines. Per the Department of Public Health, several other communities in the county are now also in the red category. HPS athletes and their families have been traveling to and playing in those communities as well."

Holyoke entered its third week in high-risk status, though its rate of COVID cases had actually declined. Data was released late last Thursday night. The state had been updating its high-risk status map on Wednesdays.

When Holyoke's status went to high-risk, West Springfield refused to play against Holyoke and games between the two schools were postponed. Based on the information provided by Matos, it appears even if Holyoke's status improves, there will be no resumption of fall sports.

Monson and Chicopee joined the ranks

of high-risk communities by data released last Thursday.

A game between Chicopee and Ludlow boys soccer was postponed last Saturday morning, but it may not have been related to Chicopee's status change as both Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive were scheduled to have regular game action this week.

Amherst Regional, which currently shares a "bubble" with South Hadley, Granby, and Belchertown, moved to moderate risk. Amherst and Belchertown were set to resume matchups this week.

Belchertown, due to past precedent, will likely not play Monson until has been removed from high-risk status. There are about four weeks remaining in the abbreviated fall season.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

S	T	P					C	U	S	H
C	U	R	B				C	O	N	E
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							D	E	R	E
							F	I	E	F
							T	E	D	S

Agawam field hockey performs service project



Church to hold holiday tag sale

AGAWAM – There will be a huge Christmas Tag Sale at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., on Nov. 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All types of Christmas items: ornament, dishes, home decor and more. Face coverings must be worn and social distancing guidelines will be in place.



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USDA INSP. FRESH ASSORTED PORK CHOPS	\$1.59
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS	\$1.77
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS PORKLOIN	\$1.29
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USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST	\$3.99

TAIL GATE SPECIALS

USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST	\$2.29
USDA INSP. STORE MADE TEXAS BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS	\$2.29
USDA INSP. HUMMELL BROS. KIELBASA	\$4.99

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OF THE WEEK**

**USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN
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BONELESS & SKINLESS
CHICKEN BREAST** **94¢**

**USDA INSP. FRESH
CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS** **59¢**

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BONE-IN PORK CHOPS** **2.99**

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